

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/922,811

Examiner

Cam Y T. Truong

Applicant(s)

SMET, FRANCIS DE

Art Unit

2162

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/28/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4,6-8, 10 and 13-16.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10, 13-14 and 15-16 are pending in this Office Action.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Justin J Cassell on 1/18/2007.

In claims:

Please replace claims 1, 3, 8, 10 by the amended claims 1, 3, 8, 10.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for searching information on the

Internet, comprising the steps of:

providing a computer linked to the Internet;

accessing directly at least one search assistant by a user via a web browser on the computer linked to the Internet to search for information on the Internet, wherein the at least one search assistant is human and a specialist in searching on the Internet;

conducting a dialogue between the user with the at least one human search assistant over the Internet and in real time to formulate a first information request; and

transmitting the first information request over the Internet to the at least one human search assistant;

wherein the at least one human search assistant includes one or more head human search assistants, the one or more head search assistants having below them a number of specialized adjunct human search assistants who each is specialized in one or more fields;

directing the first information request to an appropriate one of the specialized adjunct human search assistants via Internet, said directing is based on the one or more head human search assistants;

reformulating the first information request into an adapted information request associated with the first information request, said reformulating is based on the one of the specialized adjunct human search assistants and said conducting;

applying the adapted information request on at least one search robot for accessing information on the Internet related to the first information request by the at least one human search assistant, the adapted information request being placed through an Internet Service Provider;

communicating search results obtained by the at least one search robot to the at least one human search assistant via a web browser, said communicating is based on the Internet Service Provider; and

offering a user a selection of the search results in order for the user to make a first information selection based on the first information request displayed via the web browser, said offering is based on the at least one human search assistant.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one human search assistant has such expertise in searching on the Internet that the at least one human search assistant can be considered a web librarian and is able to give more information than a place to look on the World Wide Web and is able to supervise the user in consulting the Internet

8. (currently amended). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of consulting the at least one human search assistant via a device additional to the computer and selected from the group consisting of: a mobile phone, a palmtop, an interactive television apparatus and a set-top box associated therewith.

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10. (Currently amended). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of enabling additional contact of a same search assistant by the user by means of voice recognition, iris recognition or fingerprint recognition.

Allowable Subject Matter


3. Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10, 13-14 and 15-16 are allowed.

Contact Information

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cam Y T. Truong whose telephone number is (571) 272-4042. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Cam Y Truong
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2162
1/18/2007